

2) In the Claims:

Please amend the claims herein as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A seal assembly for a gate valve, the valve including a valve engaging member and a valve body, the valve body having a first pocket, the valve body first pocket having a first inner radius, the seal assembly comprising:

a first pocket insert disposed within the valve body first pocket, the first pocket insert being annular and having an L-shaped cross-section;

a first seat member disposed telescopingly within the first pocket insert, the first seat member being adjacent the valve engaging member;

a first annular groove disposed at an exterior corner of the L-shaped cross-section of the first pocket insert proximate the first inner radius of the valve body first pocket; and

a first radial seal ring disposed within the first annular groove of the first pocket insert adjacent the first inner radius of the valve body first pocket, wherein the first radial seal ring provides a radial seal between the first pocket insert and the first inner radius of the valve body first pocket.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the valve body comprises a second pocket, the valve body second pocket having a second inner radius, further comprising:

a second pocket insert disposed within the valve body second pocket, the second pocket insert being annular and having an L-shaped cross-section;

a second seat member disposed telescopingly within the second pocket insert, the second seat member being adjacent the valve engaging member;

a second annular groove disposed at an exterior corner of the L-shaped cross-section of the second pocket insert proximate the second inner radius of the valve body second pocket; and

a second radial seal ring disposed within the second annular groove of the second pocket insert adjacent the valve body second pocket, wherein the second radial seal ring provides a radial seal between the second pocket insert and the second inner radius of the valve body second pocket.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The seal assembly according to Claim 2, wherein the first radial seal ring retains the first pocket insert within the first inner radius of the valve body first pocket, and wherein the second radial seal ring retains the second pocket insert within the second inner radius of the valve body second pocket.

Claim 4 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 2, wherein the first radial seal ring and the second radial seal ring comprise U-shaped seal rings, wherein the open end of the U-shaped seal rings face the valve engaging member.

Claim 5 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 4, wherein the first radial seal ring and the second radial seal ring comprise carbon-filled polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyetheretherketone (PEEK), polyethersulfone (PES), metal, or combinations thereof.

Claim 6 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 4, further comprising a support ring disposed within each of the U-shaped first and second radial seal rings.

Claim 7 (Original): The valve sealing assembly according to Claim 6, wherein the support rings comprise polyphenol sulfide and are continuous.

Claim 8 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the L-shaped first pocket insert comprises a bottom surface and the first seat member comprises a bottom surface, further comprising:

- a third annular groove disposed within the bottom surface of the L-shaped first pocket insert;

- a first seal ring disposed within the third annular groove between the valve body first pocket and the first pocket insert;

- a fourth annular groove disposed within the bottom surface of the first seat member; and

- a second seal ring disposed within the fourth annular groove between the first pocket insert and the first seat member.

Claim 9 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 8, wherein the first seal ring comprises a U-shaped seal ring, wherein the open end of the U-shaped seal ring faces towards a bore of the valve body, and wherein the second seal ring comprises a C-shaped ring, wherein the open end of the C-shaped ring faces away from the bore of the valve body.

Claim 10 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the first seat member comprises a side surface, further comprising:

a fifth annular groove disposed in the side surface of the first seat member; and  
a retaining ring disposed within the fifth annular groove between the first seat member and the first pocket insert.

Claim 11 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a built-in lip disposed on one of the first seat member or the first pocket insert; and  
a lip-accommodating groove on one of the first pocket insert or the first seat member.

Claim 12 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 1, further comprising a back-up seal ring disposed between the valve body first pocket and the first radial seal ring.

Claim 13 (Original): A seal assembly for a gate valve, the valve including a valve engaging member and a valve body, the valve body having a first pocket and a second pocket, the seal assembly comprising:

a first pocket insert disposed within the valve body first pocket, the first pocket insert being annular and having an L-shaped cross-section and a bottom surface;

a first seat member disposed telescopically within the first pocket insert, the first seat member being adjacent the valve engaging member and having a bottom surface;

a first annular groove disposed at an exterior corner of the L-shaped cross-section of the first pocket insert;

a first radial seal ring disposed within the first annular groove of the first pocket insert adjacent the valve body first pocket, wherein the first radial seal ring provides a radial seal between the first pocket insert and the valve body first pocket;

a second pocket insert disposed within the valve body second pocket, the second pocket insert being annular and having an L-shaped cross-section and a bottom surface;

a second seat member disposed telescopically within the second pocket insert, the second seat member being adjacent the valve engaging member and having a bottom surface;

a second annular groove disposed at an exterior corner of the L-shaped cross-section of the second pocket insert;

a second radial seal ring disposed within the second annular groove of the second pocket insert adjacent the valve body second pocket, wherein the second radial seal ring provides a radial seal between the second pocket insert and the valve body second pocket;

a third annular groove disposed within the bottom surface of the L-shaped first pocket insert;

a first seal ring disposed within the third annular groove between the valve body first pocket and the first pocket insert;

a fourth annular groove disposed within the bottom surface of the first seat member;

a second seal ring disposed within the fourth annular groove between the first pocket insert and the first seat member;

a fifth annular groove disposed within the bottom surface of the L-shaped second pocket insert;

a third seal ring disposed within the fifth annular groove between the valve body second pocket and the second pocket insert;

a sixth annular groove disposed within the bottom surface of the second seat member; and

a fourth seal ring disposed within the sixth annular groove between the second pocket insert and the second seat member.

Claim 14 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 13, wherein the first radial seal ring retains the first pocket insert within the valve body first pocket, and wherein the second radial seal ring retains the second pocket insert within the valve body second pocket.

Claim 15 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 13, wherein the first radial seal ring and the second radial seal ring comprise U-shaped seal rings, wherein the open end of the U-shaped seal rings face the valve engaging member.

Claim 16 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 15, wherein the first radial seal ring and the second radial seal ring comprise carbon-filled polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyetheretherketone (PEEK), polyethersulfone (PES), metal, or combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 15, further comprising a support ring disposed within each of the U-shaped first and second radial seal rings.

Claim 18 (Original): The valve sealing assembly according to Claim 17, wherein the support rings comprise polyphenol sulfide and are continuous.

Claim 19 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 13, wherein the first seal ring and the third seal ring comprise U-shaped seal rings, wherein the open end of the U-shaped seal rings face towards a bore of the valve body, and wherein the second seal ring and the fourth seal ring comprise C-shaped rings, wherein the open end of the C-shaped rings face away from the bore of the valve body.

Claim 20 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 19, further comprising a support ring disposed within each of the U-shaped first seal ring and third seal ring, wherein the support rings have a slit therein.

Claim 21 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 13, further comprising a first back-up seal ring disposed between the valve body first pocket and the first radial seal ring, and a second back-up seal ring disposed between the valve body second pocket and the second radial seal ring.

Claim 22 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 13, wherein the first seat member and the second seat member each comprise a side surface, further comprising:

a seventh annular groove disposed in the side surface of the first seat member;

a first retaining ring disposed within the seventh annular groove between the first seat member and the first pocket insert;

an eighth annular groove disposed in the side surface of the second seat member; and

a second retaining ring disposed within the eighth annular groove between the second seat member and the second pocket insert.

Claim 23 (Original): The seal assembly according to Claim 13, further comprising:

a first built-in lip disposed on one of the first seat member or the first pocket insert;

a first lip-accommodating groove on one of the first pocket insert or the first seat member;

a second built-in lip disposed on one of the second seat member or the second pocket insert; and

a second lip-accommodating groove on one of the second pocket insert or the second seat member.

Claims 24–25 (Cancelled).